BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 2,289, larger by 70 than 1949.

The number of live-births was 35, one less than in 1949, giving a birth-rate of 15.29 per 1,000 estimated mid-year Home Population. This rate is lower than that for England and Wales which was 15.8. There has therefore been a progressive decline since 1947, 1948, 1949 when the rates were respectively 22.39, 19.90 and 16.29. The Royal Commission on Population in their report of 1949, found that the influence of the war had caused a greater number of marriages. It is probable, therefore, that the chief cause in the fall of the rate is due to a lesser number of recently married couples, and that it will become stabilised around the 1950 rate.

As in 1949, there were no deaths amongst infants under one year of age. This result should be gratifying to all engaged in the Midwifery and Child Welfare Services in the Borough. When it is recalled that the national death-rate for infants in 1901 was 151 per 1,000 live births, it is not difficult to assess the great advance in medical science and administration that has taken place in this Century.

It must also be equally gratifying to those engaged in the Midwifery Services that there were no deaths amongst women due to pregnancy and childbirth. These results reflect the skill and care devoted to maternal and infant health by Practitioners, Midwives and Health Visitors.

There was however one still-birth, giving a rate of 27.78 per 1,000 total live and still-births. When registration of still-births became compulsory in 1927, it was found that the national rate was 40, since when it has declined to approximately 23. Thorough ante-natal care and skilled obstetric attendance are the principal defences against a high rate.

The crude death-rate was 11.8. The greatest cause of deaths was Heart and related Circulatory Diseases, and deaths from Cancer occupied second place, as in previous years. Whereas deaths from some Heart and Circulatory diseases as for example, Coronary Thrombosis and Hypertension (High blood pressure) are thought to be related to prolonged mental anxiety and stress, Cancer is entirely a somatic disease which can be cured by early diagnosis and treatment by surgery, and physio-therapy. Cancer is however very insidious and medical opinion is often not sought until severe symptoms occur by which time the disease is often too far advanced.

There were no deaths from Infectious Disease.

64 cases of Measles were notified. This disease which is of world-wide distribution and was described by an Arab

Physician as early as the 10th Century, is known in every household in this country. Fortunately it is not a killing disease, per se, but its complications such as broncho-pneumonia and encephalo-myelitis can be very dangerous. It is almost impossible to control in that it is most infectious for some days before the rash appears, during which time the child usually continues to attend school or to mix freely elsewhere with other susceptible children, before the appearance of the rash warns the parents. There are also many mild or missed cases who escape notification. It should not be forgotten that Adult Immune Serum and Gamma globulin can be obtained from the County Laboratory if there is a need to protect temporarily from attack an exposed child who is in poor health or suffering from other concurrent illness.

36 cases of Whooping Cough were also notified. As with Measles, infection is usually widely disseminated in class-rooms and elsewhere during the week preceding the occurrence of the first typical paroxysm or whoop, when the child is not ill and is unwittingly allowed to mix indiscriminately with other children. In addition there are many mild or abortive cases who escape notification including cases of Parapertussis which is related to Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and is usually not so distressing as the latter. At present the best form of prevention is strict isolation which should be continued for 5 - 6 weeks after the disease is first suspected. Immunisation, unlike that for Diphtheria, is uncertain and it should be remembered that if and when immunity is obtained it takes two months to develop and that therefore the vaccine is useless for actual treatment.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified. Epidemics of this disease should not now occur as full measures of control are known and easily effected. This disease exacted a heavy toll of lives in the last Century and is still regarded with dread by many of the laity, although its form is now comparatively mild, is easily controlled and easily treated.

There were no cases of serious infectious disease, as for example Typhoid and Paratyphoid, Dysentery and Food Poisoning, Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) and Cerebro-spinal Fever and Diphtheria, etc.

There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis, but none from other forms. One new case was notified, and the total number on the register at the end of the year was 11, i.e. 10 Pulmonary (Respiratory) and 1 non-respiratory. The notification rate viz. 0.43 per 1,000 of the population is low, and the total number of cases relatively small.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and co-operation in the work of my Department and the staff for their loyal and efficient service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1950

Area:- 1,509 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:- The Resident Population	2,289
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	865
Rateable Value:- ... £18,731	
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:-	£72

Social Conditions.

The ancient and historical borough of New Romney, being also one of the Cinque Ports, is today predominantly concerned with agriculture, which is the chief common interest of the community. There are also within the Borough, the workshops of the Romney, Hythe, Dymchurch Light Railway and a few small factories. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea at Littlestone where there are wide expanses of sand which attract many summer visitors and holiday-makers. There is almost no unemployment, if any, and social conditions may generally be regarded as being satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.		New Romney Borough	England and Wales
1. Live Births	35	17	18	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.	15.29	15.8
(a) Legitimate	32	17	15			
(b) Illegitimate	3	-	3			
2. Stillbirths	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	27-28	-
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. Deaths	27	20	7	Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	11.80	11.6
4. Deaths from Puerperal Causes	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	0.86
5. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	-	-	-			
(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-	29.8
Rate re legitimate infants	-	
Rate re illegitimate infants	-	

6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	-
Deaths from Measles	-

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1950.

Pneumonia	2
Whooping Cough	36
Measles	64
Scarlet Fever	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-
Erysipelas	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEW ROMNEY BOROUGH

DURING 1950

ALL CAUSES	Males 20	Females 7
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease ...	-	-
4. Diphtheria ...	-	-
5. Whooping Cough ...	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections ...	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-
8. Measles ...	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	-	-
16. Diabetes ...	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	2
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	5	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease ...	2	1
21. Other circulatory disease ...	-	-
22. Influenza ...	-	1
23. Pneumonia ...	-	-
24. Bronchitis ...	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ...	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	-
34. All other accidents ...	-	-
35. Suicide ...	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

NEW ROMNEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF BOROUGH SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1950.

From the under-mentioned data and statistics, some idea of what has been carried out by this Department can be gathered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

This is supplied by the Littlestone & District Water Company throughout the Borough.

Samples have been taken for both Chemical and Bacteriological Examination and found to be satisfactory.

2. SEWERS

Constant supervision of certain lengths of the Corporation's Sewer has been essential during the past year. De-sludging catchpits in the Littlestone area has been a routine work.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Corporation undertake the Cleansing of Septic Tank and Cesspools, and the removal of House Refuse.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Premises Inspected	No. of Inspections
Accumulation found	1
Animals Kept	
(a) Piggeries.	4
(b) Stables	1
(c) Fowls, pigeons etc.	6
Complaints	
Total Number investigated. (All premises)	121
Dairies	
Cowsheds.	-
Dairies.	-
Milk Shops.	21
Disinfection	
Number of Houses disinfected.	-
Number of other buildings disinfected.	-
Disinfestation	
Number of Houses.	-
Number of other premises.	-
Drainage	
Number of drains found choked.	51
" " " " defective.	6
" " " " tested.	11
Dwelling Houses	
Number of inspections re. repairs.	63
Re-inspections.	13
Number inspected re. overcrowding.	1
Number found dirty.	1
Number found verminous.	1

Infectious Diseases	No. of Inspections
Visits re. Scarlet Fever.	-
" " Diphtheria.	-
" " Other Diseases.	2
Factories	
With mechanised power.	9
Without " "	1
Bakehouses.	21
Food Premises	
Butchers' Shops or Stalls.	53
Preparation of Potted Meat etc.	5
Fruiterers.	31
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops.	9
Restaurant or Cafe Kitchens.	13
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination.	
Satisfactory	2
Unsatisfactory	-
Miscellaneous Visits.	
Number of visits not otherwise classified.	58
Building Byelaws	65
Shops Act	27
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	35
Water Supply	
General	-
Water Samples taken. (Chem)	4
" " " (Bact)	4

PLANS

The Number of Planning Applications submitted to this Corporation were 43. These were dealt with as follows:-

Classified 111. and dealt with by Kent County Council.	2
Classified 11. & 1. " " " this Corporation.	41

One Appeal was lodged with the Ministry of Town & Country Planning.

MEAT & OTHER FOOD

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1950:-

Beef	105½ lbs.
Corned Beef	5 tins.
Evaporated Milk	13 tins.
Miscellaneous	21 tins.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

50 Traditional Houses have been completed and occupied in the Post War Housing Scheme.

BEACH QUARRY.

The Beach Quarry, Dymchurch Road, has again started to operate. Excavations are undertaken by Messrs. Reeves (Motor Transport) Ltd. Folkestone. From November, 1950 to the end of the Year, 1,151 cb.yds. have been excavated.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Alderman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

"Prescott"
New Romney.

August, 1951.

Borough Surveyor.